

Milk River Wildlife Management Area (WMA)

2004 Small Mammal Trapping and Species Inventory Report

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MFWP)

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July 19-26, 2004



Trapping and species inventory was conducted at three areas of the Milk River WMA in Phillips County in northeastern Montana, approximately 20 miles northeast of Malta. Those areas were Dodson Creek, Sleeping Buffalo, and Dodson Dam.

The management goal of the WMA is to provide habitat for wildlife, particularly waterfowl, and to provide the public with recreational opportunities. Wildlife-viewing is popular year-round at the WMA, as white-tailed deer, raptors, and numerous small mammals are present year-round. The Milk River WMA is also an important migratory stop for shorebirds, waterfowl, and songbirds, and these can be observed in the spring and fall. Hunting is also allowed for deer, upland game birds and waterfowl.

Findings: 82 Captures of 11 Species

- Small mammal trapping lines (Table 3)
 - 72 captures of 9 species
- Large Fox Cage (Table 4)
 - 5 captures of 1 species
- Mistnet (Table 4)
 - 4 captures of 2 species
- Funnel (Table 4)
 - 1 capture of 1 species

Table 1. Trapping Location and Habitat Type

Location #	Name	Habitat
1	line 1	Riparian
2	line 2	Upland Grassland
3	line 3	Riparian
4	line 4	Upland Grassland
5	line 5	Upland Grassland (Alfalfa)
6	line 6	Marsh Edge
7	line 7	Marsh Edge (Willows)
8	line 8	Upland Grassland
9	line 9	Marsh Edge
10	line 10	Marsh Edge
11	line 11	Sagebrush Grassland
12	line 12	Sagebrush Grassland
13	Netsite1	Riparian
14	Funnel1	Riparian



Little Brown Myotis



Western Jumping Mouse

Table 2. Capture Summary

Species Captured	Trapline												Mistnet	Funnel	Large Cages	Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
Little Brown Myotis													3			3
Silver-Haired Bat													1			1
Deer Mouse	8			1	13	5	4	2	2	2	3	4				44
Northern Grasshopper Mouse											2					2
Meadow Vole	1				1	1				3						6
Long-Tailed Vole	1															1
Prairie Vole	1															1
Western Jumping Mouse							1									1
Striped Skunk					2		2	3				1			5	13
Unknown Bird							1							1		2
Unknown Shrew	1					7										8
Total Captures	12	0	0	1	16	13	8	5	2	5	5	5	4	1	5	82

Table 3. Trapline Summary

Trap Type	Trapline												Total Trap Nights	Total Captures	Captures/100 Trap Nights	Number of Species
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
Snap, small (victor)	47	47	46	48	42	38	34	45	47	49	43	35	521	8	1.5	3
Snap, med (museum special)	47	49	48	41	42	41	39	44	40	48	41	43	523	27	5.2	6
Snap, large (rat)	10	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	9	10	9	9	116	1	0.9	1
Cage, small (sherman)	50	49	47	50	49	43	46	50	49	49	47	41	570	22	3.9	3
Cage, med (skunk)	10	10	10	9	10	9	9	9	10	5	3	3	97	8	8.2	1
Pitfall	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	300	6	2	3
Total Trap Nights	189	190	186	183	178	165	163	183	180	186	168	156	2127			
Total Captures	12	0	0	1	16	13	8	5	2	5	5	5	72			
Captures/100 Trap Nights	6.3	0	0	0.5	9	9.1	4.9	3.8	1.1	2.7	3	3.8	3.4			
Number of Species	5	0	0	1	3	3	4	2	1	2	2	2				

Table 4. Trapsite Summary

Trap Type	Total Trap Nights	Total Captures	Captures/100 Trap Nights	Number of Species
Cage, large	55	5	9.1	1
Mistnet	6	4	66.7	2
Funnel	5	1	20	1

Table 5. Miscellaneous Species Observed

Pied-billed Grebe
 Eared Grebe
 American White Pelican
 Great Blue Heron
 Canada Goose
 Mallard
 Northern Harrier
 Red-tailed Hawk
 American Kestrel
 Sage Grouse
 American Coot
 Killdeer
 Greater Yellowlegs
 Solitary Sandpiper
 Willet
 Common Snipe
 California Gull
 Black Tern
 Mourning Dove
 Western Screech-owl
 Common Nighthawk
 Northern Flicker
 Western Wood-pewee
 Eastern Kingbird
 American Robin
 Gray Catbird
 Brown Thrasher
 Sprague's Pipit
 Cedar Waxwing
 Loggerhead Shrike
 Yellow Warbler

**Cedar Waxwing****Western Kingbird**

Misc. Species Continued

Common Yellowthroat
Vesper Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Baltimore Oriole
American Goldfinch
Mountain Cottontail
Richardson's Ground Squirrel
Muskrat
Red Fox
Mink
Pronghorn
Painted Turtle
Racer
Common Garter Snake



Eastern Kingbird



Red Fox Kits

Tom Warren



Franklin's Gull

Photo Credits: MFWP staff unless otherwise noted.

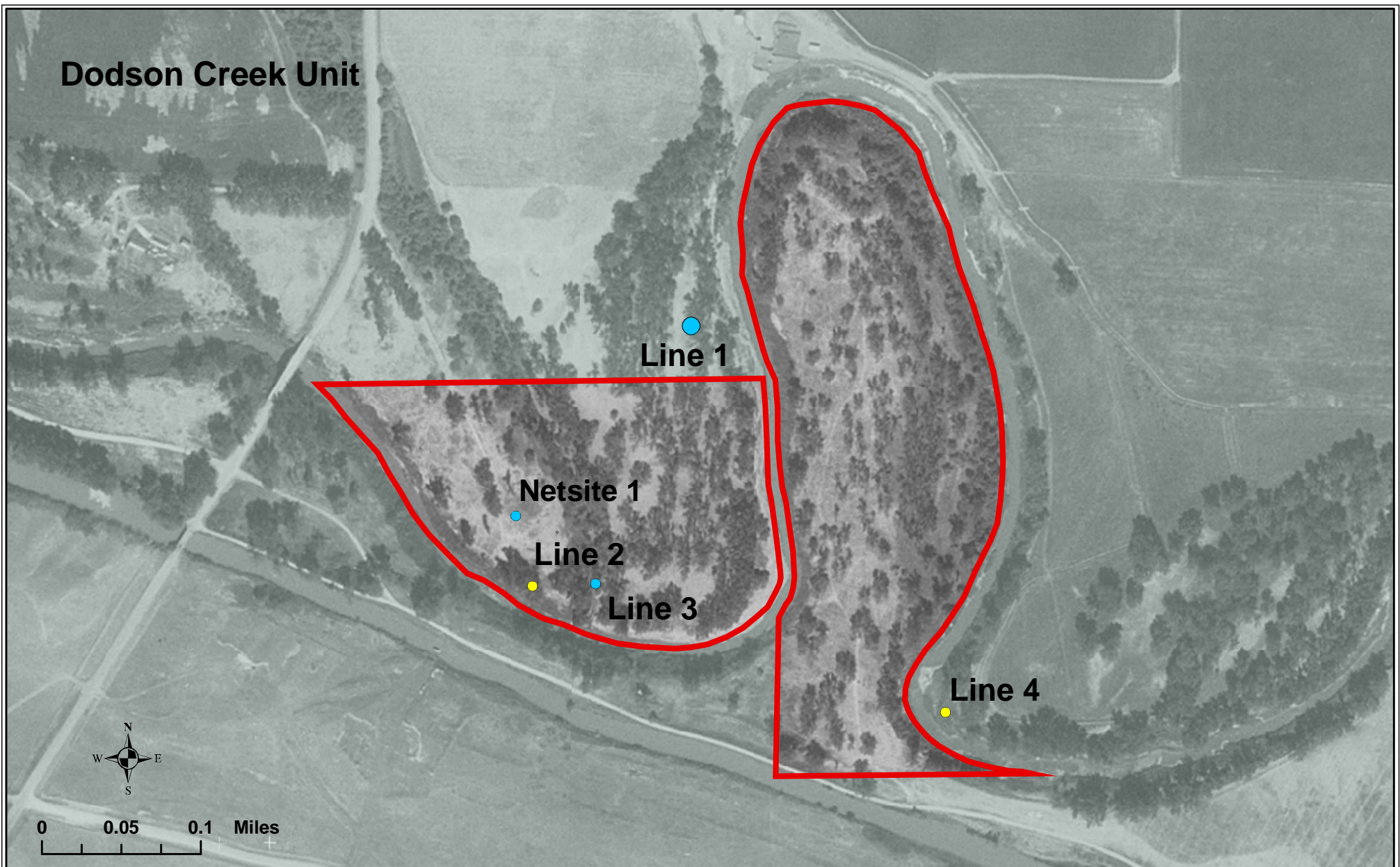


Figure 1:

Milk River WMA

Small Mammal Survey Site



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Trapping Locations

General Landcover (Symbol color)

● Agriculture

● Barren / Badlands

● Broadleaf Forest

● Conifer Forest

● Grassland

* Not all landcover types were sampled at all sites.

● Riparian

● Shrub Grassland

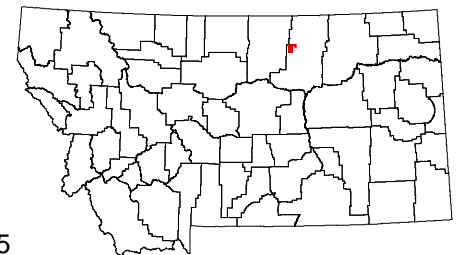
Captures/100 trapnights (Symbol size)

* only calculated for trap lines

● 0 - 5

● >5 - 15

● >15



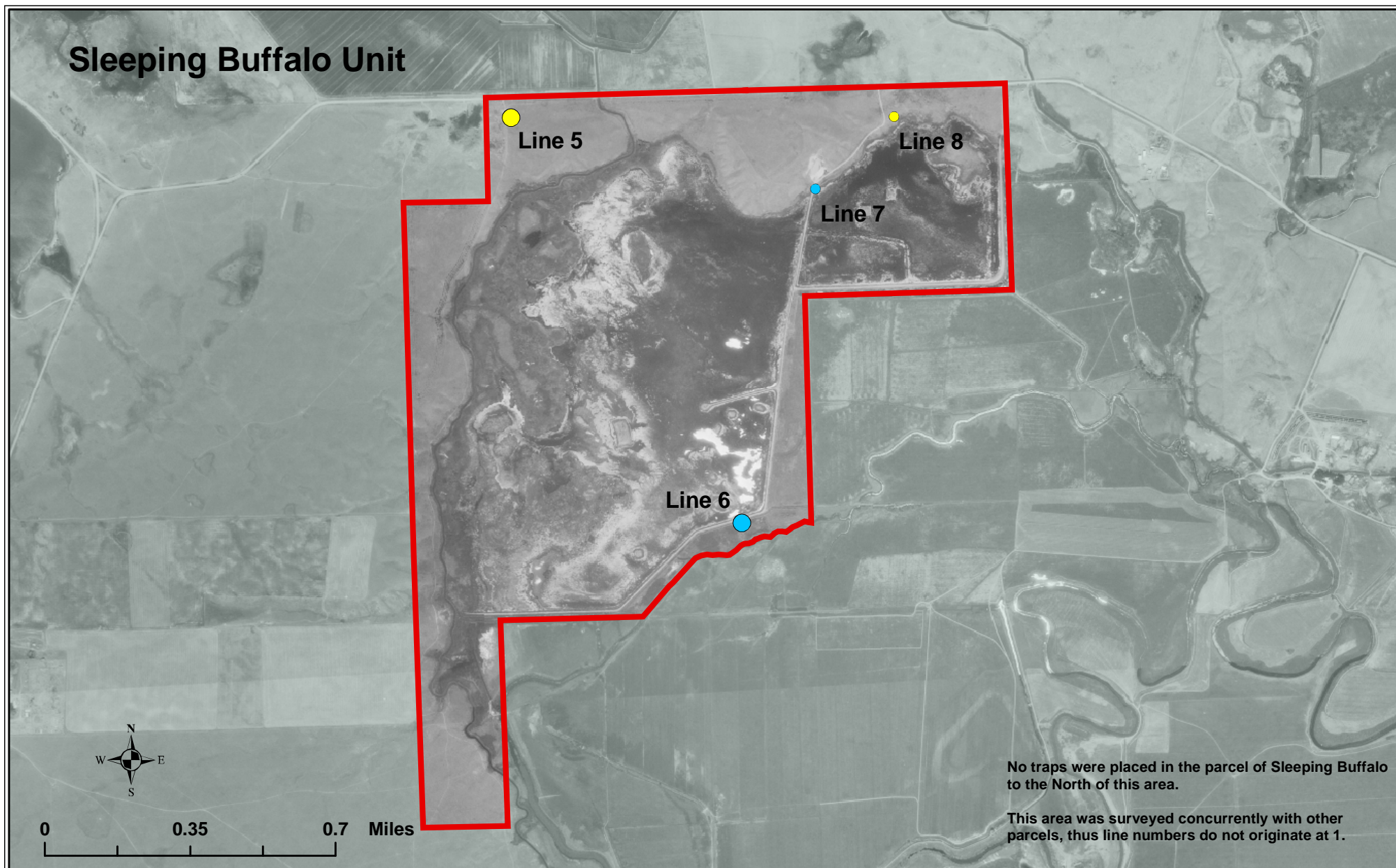


Figure 2:

Milk River WMA

Small Mammal Survey Site



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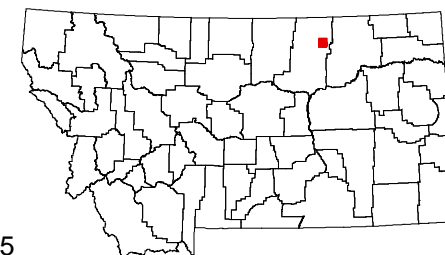
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● 0 - 5

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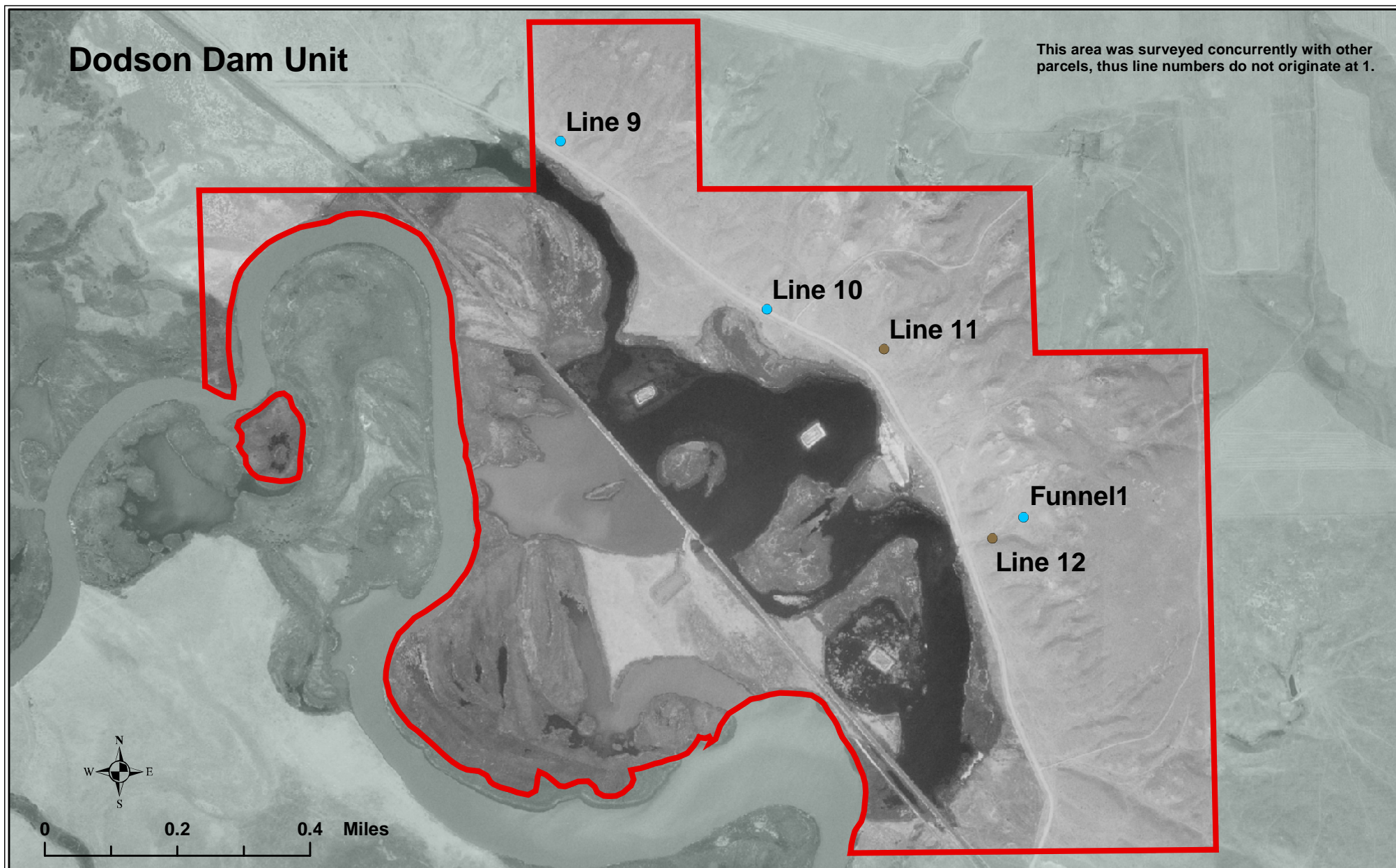


Figure 3:

Milk River WMA

Small Mammal Survey Site



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